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1925.



THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

(SYDNEY H. LONG, M.D.)

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faiths,

Together with the Report of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

NORWICH :

MACKLEY & BUNN, PRINTERS, ORFORD HILL.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

(Sydney H. Long, M.D., Cantab.)

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faiths, Norfolk,

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

It is satisfactory to be able to report a marked decrease in the number of Infectious Diseases arising in the District during 1925. In the previous year there were 87 cases of Scarlet Fever, as compared with 11 for the year under review. Diphtheria also shews a decrease from 12 to 5 cases. The total number of Infectious Diseases notified shews a decrease of 63·0 per cent.

The Birth-rate is the lowest during the last five years, being 16·4 per 1,000 of population, and as against 18·3 for England and Wales; the Death-rate is under the average, or 11·0 against 12·2 for England and Wales. The Death-rate from Cancer maintains its high percentage of the total deaths, and shews a further increase of 4 deaths on last year's total of 18 deaths from this cause.

A great deal has been done during the period under survey to deal with the Housing question, and since my last Report Salhouse has received another quota of the type of house this parish so badly needs. The Council's efforts to bring about improved housing accommodation must necessarily be reflected in the health of the District, and I hope that their efforts will be unremitting until cases of unhealthy dwellings and overcrowding no longer exist. Apart from the Council's housing schemes a considerable number of houses have been erected by private enterprise, and these, where the houses are closely built, bring with them increased responsibilities for the Council with regard to the provision, sooner or later, of Scavenging Schemes.

The District is sparsely populated in many parts, but the greatly increased travelling facilities are bringing into the country a number of town-dwellers. The occupation of the inhabitants is mainly agricultural. Some of the Parishes are growing rapidly, especially Hellesdon and Wroxham, and are almost urban in their characters. There are no factories, mills, mines, or quarries employing labour of such a nature that public health is likely to be influenced.

Building Bye-laws applicable to the whole District are in force, also Bye-laws relating to New Streets and Buildings, which apply only to the Contributory places of Catton, Hellesdon and Sprowston. With the exception of parts of the Public Health Act, 1925, mentioned below, no Acts, Bye-laws, or Local Regulations relating to public health have been adopted by the Council during the year.

The following is a list of the Sections in force in the District, together with a list of Parishes in which such sections of the Public Health and other Acts apply:—

Date of Order.	Parish.	Act.	Sections.
22nd June, 1888	Drayton ...	P.H.A. 1875 ...	Sec. 157 (2) and (4)
30th July, 1896 ...	Drayton ...	P.H.A. 1875 ...	Sec. 158
30th July, 1896 ...	Drayton ...	P.H.A. 1890 ...	Sec. 157 (whole of) Sec. 23 (1) (2) and (4) Sec. 25 and 33
6th June, 1883 ...	{ Catton Sprowston }	P.H.A. 1875 ...	Sec. 157 (whole of by order dated 30th July, 1896) Sec. 158
4th April, 1884 ...	Hellesdon ...	P.H.A. 1875 ...	Sec. 157 (whole of by order dated 26th Aug., 1896) Sec. 158
		P.H.A.A. 1890	Sec. 23 (1) (2) and (4) Sec. 25 and 33
30th July, 1896 ...	{ Felthorpe ... St. Faiths ... Swanington ... Taverham ... Wroxham ... }	P.H.A.A. 1890	Sec. 157 Sec. 158 (by order dated 28th May, 1897)
	Catton ...	P.H.A.A. 1890	Sec. 23 (1) (2) and (4)
30th July, 1896 ...	{ Drayton Felthorpe St. Faiths Sprowston Swanington Taverham Wroxham }	P.H.A.A. 1890	Sec. 25 and 23
28th May, 1897 ...	Whole District	Towns Improve- ment Clauses Act, 1847, in- corporated with P.H. Act, 1875, by Sec. 60 of such Act.	
28th May, 1897 ...	Gt. Witchingham	P.H.A. 1875 ... P.H.A.A. 1890	Sec. 157 and 158 Sec. 23 (1) (2) and (4) Sec. 25 and 23

Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II., III., and IV., with the exception of Sections 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 35, 39, and 44.

WATER.

The water supply is derived from wells and, generally speaking, they are satisfactory in quality, and give an adequate supply. A large number are surface wells, and in wet seasons the level of the water in many of them is only a foot or two below the ground level. Most of the houses in the parishes of Catton, Sprowston, and Hellesdon are connected with the Norwich Water Mains, and the supply is constant. During last year one well was found to be polluted, and a new well was sunk.

RIVERS.

No cases of pollution of the rivers running through or adjoining the District have been reported. As the Norwich Waterworks Company and the Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company draw their water from those parts of the rivers Wensum and Bure which lie beyond the boundaries of the St. Faiths District, careful examination takes place periodically to prevent the possibility of contamination from drains and foul ditches, but these measures do not preclude the possibility of improving the present primitive method of discharging filth into the river from yachts and house-boats moored for months at a time in the higher reaches of the river.

Are there no means whereby Local Authorities can subsidise riverside caterers and other people ministering to the needs of the large influx of visitors to the Norfolk Broads to enable them to increase the sanitary accommodation of their premises to something more in accordance with the needs of the public?

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No regular system of sewerage exists in the District. In some of the villages slop water is disposed of on the garden direct, and in all others drainage is into cesspools.

The parish of Wroxham presents great difficulties for the satisfactory disposal of sewerage and house refuse, and the prevention of pollution of the River Bure, from which lower down Great Yarmouth draws its water supply. A Voluntary Scavenging Scheme has been started, which is a move in the right direction; but to insure a continuity in service I should prefer to see this in the hands of a Special Sanitary Committee. Of late years a large number of houses have been built, and some fourteen wooden bungalows erected on piles on the south bank of the river. It is impossible to provide any sort of drainage for these latter, as they stand on water-logged ground, and are most difficult to approach except by boat. Incineration is the method employed by one owner, the provision of a septic tank by another; but whatever method is adopted success depends upon the strictest attention to details, and this I am trying to impress upon the occupiers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of newly-built houses in the parishes of Catton, Hellesdon, and Sprowston, all closet accommodation consists of pail closets or privies. In the new houses in the three parishes mentioned water closets are usually provided.

For many years I have been working on the principle of getting privy-bins converted into the pail system, and I am glad to be able to report that there are now but few of the old privies remaining.

SCAVENGING.

With the exception of two parishes, the occupiers deal with their own refuse. In Wroxham a voluntary system is in force, no rate being levied; in Lenwade, a Hamlet of Great Witchingham, there is a Special Sanitary Committee, and a rate is levied to meet the expenses incurred in removing the contents of pail closets.

INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The action taken with regard to the inspection of the District is shewn in the report of the Sanitary Inspector given in a summary at the end of the report.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been taken with regard to this.

SCHOOLS.

The condition of the Schools in the District has given no cause for complaint, and the necessary action has been taken when children have been notified as suffering from Infectious Diseases.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 25 slaughter-houses in the District, and the condition of these premises is generally satisfactory. A considerable quantity of the meat is taken into Norwich for sale there. Notices of regular slaughtering are given, and any additional slaughtering is notified. A number of notices of casualty carcasses have been received by the Inspector, who since taking up the duties in August last has made 149 inspections of slaughter-houses, and the following are the particulars of meat inspected:—

				Carcasses examined.
Beef	..	..	..	151
Pork	..	..	..	207
Mutton	..	..	..	107
Veal	..	..	..	19
Total				484
Notices of casualty carcasses received				11
Number examined				10

The following meat was condemned:—

Five carcasses of mutton (fevered).

One forequarters and offal of beef (Localised Tuberculosis).

One carcase of mutton (Oedema).

Condemned meat is disposed of by burying or disposal to knackers. In every case particular care is taken to see that the meat is satisfactorily disposed of.

Shops and Roundsmen's Carts are regularly inspected, and are kept in a clean condition. Some idea will be gathered from these details as to mileage covered and the work involved in carrying out the Meat Regulations.

Number of Slaughter-houses in use in the District:—

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	—	25	25
Licensed	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	—	25	25
	—	—	—

HOUSING.

The general character of defects found to exist are dampness, defective roofs, absence of rainwater guttering, back paving and floors uneven, defective and loose plaster on internal walls, woodwork of stairs and bedroom floors uneven, and brickwork in need of pointing; but it is impossible to close houses that are unfit, or to remedy the many cases of overcrowding that exist owing to the absence of alternative accommodation. Informal notices are invariably served on owners, and every opportunity is given for the work to be done, and only legal steps taken when all other methods have failed.

Very few of the houses that are being built are within the means of the general working class, in fact, it is really only the houses erected by the Council which are coping with the needs of these people. In addition to the 84 houses built by the Council under the Act of 1919, a further 58 have been built, are in process of erection, or are about to be commenced. These houses are most suitable, and will be an invaluable addition to the cottage accommodation in this District. I understand a further 50 of a similar type are contemplated, and doubtlessly they are needed. So long as private individuals are not able to build cottages at a reasonable cost it must rest with Local Authorities at least to erect a sufficient number to replace those that are condemned.

MILK SUPPLY.

The conditions at Cowsheds and Dairies are fairly satisfactory. There are a large number of small cowkeepers who make butter, and only retail a very small quantity of milk.

Three cowsheds have been condemned during the year. In one instance a new cowshed was built, in the other two cases the occupiers ceased to keep cows. One other cowshed has been reconstructed.

There are no licences granted for sale of milk under the special designations, and no case of tuberculosis has been met with. It has not been found necessary to refuse or revoke any registrations during the year.

BAKE-HOUSES.

These premises are frequently inspected, and are in a satisfactory condition generally.

DEATHS.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Total Deaths.
Measles	3	..
Diphtheria	5	..
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..
Cancer .. .. .	..	22
Scarlet Fever	11	..
Influenza .. .. .	..	10
Rheumatic Fever .. .. .	..	1
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..
Diabetes .. .. .	..	5
Ulcer of Stomach .. .. .	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage .. .. .	..	8
Pneumonia	5	3
Other Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	..	..
Heart Disease .. .. .	..	18
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary, Males	{ 15	3
" " Females		1
" Non-Pulmonary, Males .. .. .	..	..
" " Females	8	..
Arterio-Sclerosis .. .. .	..	8
Bronchitis .. .. .	..	10
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..
Appendicitis .. .. .	..	1
Malaria .. .. .	..	..
Diarrhœa .. .. .	..	1
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	..	..
Erysipelas	3	..
Acute Nephritis .. .. .	..	3
Congenital Debility .. .. .	..	2
Suicides .. .. .	..	2
Other Deaths from Violence .. .. .	..	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	..	..
Other defined Causes .. .. .	..	27
Other ill-defined Causes	1	..
	51	128

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. Nil.

There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis and 23 cases have been notified to me. There appears no reason to doubt that the notification of Tuberculosis is efficiently carried out by the local general practitioners, and the Medical Officers of Institutions receiving such cases. There were 22 deaths from Cancer as against 18 recorded last year.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	18	1

Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION, Insufficient .	I	I

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	...
20	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
25	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
35	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
45	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
65 and over	2	4	...	...	...	...	..	...
One death not registered in this District	...	...	...	...	1	...	-	...
	7	8	4	4	2	1	1	...
	23				4			

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(A) Total	94
(B) With State Assistance under the Housing Act, 1923,	
1. By the Local Authority	8
2. By other persons	86

(1) UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	100
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	53
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	36

(2) REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	17
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(3) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(A) By owners	19
(B) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ..	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(A) By owners	2
(B) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

Signed,

SYDNEY H. LONG, M.D. (Cantab.),
Medical Officer of Health.

31, Surrey Street, Norwich.
March, 1926.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales, have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH- RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under 1 Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	(Certified Causes of Death)	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England & Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	—	92.1	6.9	1.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	—	92.1	7.3	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000—50,000 London	18.3 18.0	11.2 11.7	0.01 0.01	0.00 0.00	0.15 0.08	0.02 0.02	0.14 0.19	0.06 0.11	0.31 0.23	0.38 0.46	7.6 10.6	74 67	— —	93.0 91.1	5.9 8.9	1.1 0.0	

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births			Total Death Regis- tered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District 8.	of Residents not registered in the District 9.	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births 11.		Number	Rate
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1913	10,910	229	..	21.0	193	16.7	39	14	22	96	168	15.1
1914	10,952	213	..	19.4	161	14.6	41	10	24	112	130	11.9
1915	9,493	206	..	18.6	230	24.2	99	6	14	68	137	14.4
1919	10,371	163	..	15.7	199	19.1	61	11	15	69	138	13.3
1920	9,929	239	..	24.0	155	15.6	23	7	19	79	132	13.2
1921	10,930	229	236	21.5	115	10.5	..	7	5	22	89	8.1
1922	11,070	196	.	17.7	163	14.7	25	..	12	60	138	12.4
1923	10,917	201	208	19.0	117	10.7	27	23	8	40	113	10.3
1924	11,490	205	207	18.0	133	11.5	37	22	9	43	118	10.2
1925	11,560	179	190	16.4	135	12.5	41	34	4	21	128	11.0

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 48,933.

Total Population at all ages At Census of 1921.

Number of inhabited houses " "

Average number of persons per house... .. " "

The Norwich City Mental Hospital is within the District, and it receives persons of unsound mind from without the District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	PARISH NOTIFIED IN																TOTAL.						
	Brandeston.	Catton.	Croswick.	Drayton.	St. Faith's.	Frettenham.	Haynford.	Haverlingland.	Hellesdon.	Honingham.	Horsford.	Horstead.	Rackheath.	Ringland.	Salhouse.	Spixworth.		Sproston.	Swanington.	Taverham.	Weston.	Gt. Witchingham.	Wroxham.	HellesdonAsylum.
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Measles ...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Others forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmal Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	4	1	3	...	2	5	...	...	1	3	3	4	...	5	2	...	1	...	1	1	6	7
				</																			

Number of Cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever notified during each Month
during the Year ended 31st December, 1925.

DISEASES.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Diphtheria Over 14 { Under 14 {	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	I	} 5
	..	..	I	..	..	.	I	.	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever Under 14 { Over 14 {	I	I	2	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	I	..	} 12
	I	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Causes of Death during the Year 1925.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.	
	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	12	10
Whooping Cough ..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever ..	1	..
Influenza ..	4	6
Excephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..
Diabetes ..	3	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ..	4	4
Heart Disease.. ..	4	14
Arterio-sclerosis ..	4	4
Bronchitis ..	7	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	3	..
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhilitis ..	..	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	.	..
Ulcer of Stomach ..	1	..
Diarrhœa (under two years) ..	..	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	3	..
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth ..	2	..
Suicide ..	..	2
Other Deaths from Violence ..	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ..	15	12
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ..	..	..
All Causes ..	67	61

Report of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year 1925.

Population	...	...	...	...	11,490
Number of Houses (all classes)	...	...	...	...	3,692
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	35
Nuisances Detected without Complaint	...	...	...	...	141
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	173
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	96
Statutory Notices Served	..	...	...	...	22
Summonses Taken Out	...	...	...	...	1
Convictions	...	...	...	...	1
Cottages Inspected	...	...	...	...	100
Houses placed in Habitable Repair	...	...	...	...	36
Houses Closed	...	...	...	...	3
Bake-houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	8
Workshops Inspected	...	...	...	...	18
Cow-sheds Inspected	...	...	...	...	76
Cow-sheds Repaired...	...	...	...	...	2
New Cow-sheds Erected	...	..	...	...	1
Cow-sheds Condemned	...	...	...	...	3
Dangerous Chimneys Repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Dangerous Walls Repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Drains Relaid	...	...	...	...	10
Drains Unblocked	...	...	...	...	12
Drains cut off from Watercourse	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools Emptied	...	...	...	...	14
New Covers to Cesspools	...	...	...	...	1
New Well sunk in place of Polluted Well	...	...	...	...	1
Wells Cleaned	...	...	...	...	1
Wells Repaired	...	...	...	...	6
New Covers to Wells	...	...	..	...	2
Privies Repaired	...	...	...	...	12
New Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	15
Pail Closets Repaired	...	...	...	...	29
Accumulations of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	...	14
Ditches Cleaned	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances from Animals and Fowls	...	...	...	...	5
Eaves Gutters Repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Yard Paving Repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New Drains Inspected	...	...	...	...	34
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	...	16
Cases Removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	25
Filthy Houses Cleaned	...	...	...	...	2
Plans of Proposed Houses submitted, Approved	...	...	...	...	123
" " " Rejected	...	...	...	...	9
Plans of Alterations and Additions to Existing Houses Approved	...	...	...	...	4

H. S. HAWKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.

